

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the discussion about Research Background, Research Problem, Research Objective, Research Significance, Scope and Limitation of the Research, and Definition of the Key Terms.

1.1 Research Background

QQ is recognized as the most popular internet-based instant messaging device of Tencent Holding LTD developed with Chinese character-based on early 1999 (Zhang, 2010). *QQ* offers multi-device log-in just like other common social media such as *Facebook*, *Twitter*, and *WeChat*, that can be accessed through Windows, iOS/iPhone and Web. Nowadays, *QQ* enables to be accessed by using English language with *QQ International* application. *QQ* social media is selected in this research as it is known as an accessible social media in China beside *WeChat*. *QQ* social media provides several features such as live translation, find friends online, sharing moments and multi-communication. Multi-communication is the main feature of *QQ* social media, it includes video and voice call, and online chat.

Video and voice call are kind of real-time virtual communication. A voice call is commonly a phone call supported by internet connection or often known as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). Voice call only allows people to hear what the other person is talking. Whereas video calls develop voice calls with live visual interaction that can be used between users (Yu *et al.*, 2014). In the other words, video call allows people as caller and recipient to see and hear each

other as soon as they are in the call, while voice call both caller and receiver only can hear each other's voice.

Online chat is kind of real-time communication over the internet between people in the form of text messages by using social media as tools. In addition, Peris *et al.* (2002) describes that online chat room is a meeting point that allows people to communicate with other people otherwise inaccessible. So, internet connection is required in conducting this kind of communication. Commonly, chat messages are short which is aimed to get fast response from another participant. Chatting can be conducted in one-to-many participants or group chat and one-on-one or private chat. Furthermore, chat is conducted in the written form which is related to the writing skill. As stated by Beason and Lester (2012), the important part of writing is sentence organization. Besides, it has a significant element to be identified easily, namely: error.

Error occurred because people have difficulties in implementing the rule of certain language. Error can be occurred in the form of sentence or phrase. There are several error areas such as omission errors, misinformation errors, addition errors, misordering errors and other errors. According to Dulay's study in Zheng and Park (2013), omission error is illustrated by the absence of an element that should perform in a well-formed expression; misinformation error is characterized by the wrong use of the form of the structure or morphemes; addition errors are characterized by the existence of an element that should not exist in a sentence; misordering error is exemplified by exemplified by the incorrect placement of

certain morpheme in an expression; and other category is described as an awkward expressions, not clear, fragments and wrong vocabulary use.

Errors cannot be separated in applying a second language or even foreign language. The error made by non-native speakers is commonly influenced by their first language as covered in language transfer. The first language of English learner in China is Chinese standard language (pǔtōnghuà), while English language is considered as the second language. In language learning, errors are not regarded as something to be avoided but as a coherent part of the language learning process for students. In addition, Beason and Lester (2012) state that one part of learning process is creating errors. An error is created as an indication that people still works in a learning process. In addition, comprehending people' errors are very beneficial in order to understand the problems in using target language, specifically the implementation of English language by Chinese students.

In this research, Chinese students or the research subjects are from Tongren University (One University in Guizhou, China) who are experiencing course exchange in the University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM). UMM is a private university with an International touch with the international relation to the other country universities especially China; as one of international program in UMM collaborated with University in China is student exchange. Furthermore, Chinese students are selected as they have tendency in using English language, rather than Indonesians who have tendency in using Bahasa Indonesia and Javanese language while conducting online chatting with the researcher.

There are three previous researches related to the present research. The previous researches were conducted by Limengka & Kuntjara (2012), Alfiyani (2013), and Sermsook *et al.* (2017).

The first research was conducted by Limengka & Kuntjara (2012) which was dealt with errors on students' essays that include agreement, active-passive voice, tenses, word formation, and word order. The research finding was gained errors on misordering, misformation, addition, omission and blends error, while the most dominant error is committed on misformation error.

The second previous research was conducted by Alfiyani (2013) which was investigating writing errors of second semester students. The research finding was consisted of four types of error. The analysis result shows that the committed errors are 281 errors of omission, 119 errors of misformation, 189 errors of addition, and 6 errors of misordering.

Finally, the last previous research was conducted by Sermsook *et al.* (2017) which was investigating 104 writing II assignment written by 26 English major students. The research finding was showing that the most dominant errors found on spelling, capitalization, articles, punctuation, subject-verb agreement, and fragment.

Based on the explanation and previous researches, the current research is adapted from Alfiyani (2013) which deals with 4 types of error, while this research is adding 1 more type of error (other type of error). This research is conducted to investigate the errors in *QQ* online chatting on the informal situation by Chinese students from Tongren University experiencing course

exchange in University of Muhammadiyah Malang. The investigated error in this research is focused on the sentence and phrase. The matter of error in informal situation is being a problem which leads negatives impact, such as misunderstanding and incorrect application of sentence organization in academic writing or formal writing. Therefore, based on those reasons, the researcher attempts to conduct this research entitled “Errors found in *QQ* online chatting performed by Chinese Students”.

1.2 Research Problems

This research is concerned with errors found in *QQ* online chatting performed by Chinese students from Tongren University experiencing course exchange in UMM. Based on the background, the research questions are formulated as:

1. What errors are found in *QQ* online chatting performed by Chinese Students?
2. What types of errors are found in *QQ* online chatting performed by Chinese Students?

1.3 Research Objectives

This research is aimed to investigate:

1. The errors found in *QQ* online chatting performed by Chinese students.
2. Type of errors found in *QQ* online chatting performed by Chinese students.

1.4 Research Significance

This research is supposed to provide theoretical and practical contribution. Theoretically, this research means to explain the grammar and writing performance as a result of learning foreign language, which is related to grammar rules and sentence organization in the writing form of English language.

Practically, this research gives contribution to three aspects, such as to the research participants, language learners and future researcher. For the research participants, the research findings hopefully can help in improving writing skill and grammar use properly. Meanwhile, for the language learners, the research findings are expected to be applied as a reference in language learning. Finally for the future researcher, the research finding is expected to be the reference in order to conduct the further research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Research

The scope of this research is error of English language used in QQ online chatting performed by Chinese students from Tongren University; it includes phrases and positive, negative and interrogative sentence. The chatting topic limitation is everyday life or daily activity. The limitation of this research is five Chinese students from Tongren University experiencing course exchange in University of Muhammadiyah Malang year 2017-2018. This research is conducted in 4 months, from January to April 2018.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

In order to prevent misunderstanding of several terms in this research, the researcher needs to define as follows:

1. **Errors** are the incorrect use of a linguistic element regarded by native or fluent speaker of certain language (Richard and Schmidt, 2002).
2. **QQ** is an Instant messaging (IM) application of China with millions registered users (Rong and Jiancheng, 2017).
3. **Online Chatting** is the kind of communication that allows the participants to create and enter online rooms which is aimed to communicate in real-time (Peters, 2008).

